

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 17, 2020

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services  
and Education  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services  
and Education  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole,

As your Subcommittee considers the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations bill, we are writing to request \$10 million for School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs). Funding for the operation of SBHCs would help provide quality primary, preventive and mental health care to children and adolescents nationwide in an accessible and convenient setting.

SBHCs provide high quality, comprehensive primary health care, mental health services, preventive care, social services, and youth development to primarily low-income children and adolescents across the nation. Today, over 6.3 million children and adolescents across 10,629 schools, in 48 states and the District of Columbia, have access to an SBHC. While these numbers reflect consistent growth of the model over the past 25 years, only a fraction of children and adolescents in need of these critical services are able to access an SBHC. By providing these services at school, where students spend most of their day, these centers provide a convenient access point to health care in a setting that families are familiar with and trust. Furthermore, SBHCs regularly provide care that is patient-centered and responsive to the needs of local communities.


SBHCs have a demonstrated impact on individual students and schools overall. Students who utilize SBHCs are less likely to visit the emergency room or be hospitalized, particularly for asthma. Academically, SBHCs help increase attendance, reduce dropout rates, improve school climate, and support students' academic achievement. SBHCs also respond to injuries and illnesses on school grounds, provide critical early intervention and prevention services, and help students with chronic diseases manage their health.


We thank you for your consideration of our request. SBHCs are an evidence-based model to improve children's health while keeping them in school and reducing their health care costs.


Sincerely,

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

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Member of Congress

 **AYANNA PRESSLEY**  
Member of Congress

 **JOHN P. SARBANES**  
Member of Congress

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